



# Standard of Practice

## Mouth Care

This standard of practice is to support the CSW in providing safe, respectful and effective personal care to the public population in a dignified and ethical approach. Standards of Practice outline the expectations of the CSW and their responsibility in the delivery of care.

### Mouth Care

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Also known as oral hygiene, keeps the mouth and teeth clean, it prevents mouth odour, infections, gum disease and tooth decay.

Mouth care can include assisting with teeth brushing, denture care, and mouth swabs. Good oral hygiene will facilitate in food tasting better and increase overall client comfort and oral health.

If the person(s) is unable to perform their own mouth care, the person(s) would require a Support Worker.

If the person(s) is unable to hold a toothbrush, remove dentures or no longer understands how to do mouth care, the client would require a Support Worker to complete this task.

The CSW may perform routine cleaning of teeth or dentures.

The CSW may perform mouth care on a person(s) who is unconscious or requires oral suctioning.

The use of machine operated suctioning can cause loss of airway and oxygen if not used properly. It is important that the CSW has received the proper training and also it is important for the CSW to be aware of the policy of the facility they are working in. If for some reason the CSW has not received the proper training or is not sure of the use, HP must train the CSW in this procedure.